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**NENA Applauds Passage of 9/11 Commission
Recommendations Legislation**
*Praises Leadership of Senators Clinton and Stevens for Ensuring
Funding for Availability of 9-1-1 Grants*

Arlington, VA – The House and Senate approved the 9/11 Commission Recommendations bill that emerged from conference late Friday night. Among numerous important provisions, the bill includes language originally introduced by E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chairs, Senators Hillary Clinton and Ted Stevens, known as the 911 Modernization Act. The language provides advanced borrowing authority to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to immediately borrow up to \$43.5 million from the treasury to make grants available to 9-1-1 centers as authorized by the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004. The grants will allow Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to pay for needed upgrades to enable them to locate all 9-1-1 callers, including those calls made from wireless phones. Currently, nearly forty percent of counties do not contain a PSAP capable of automatically locating wireless 9-1-1 calls which can unfortunately lead to a delayed response if the caller cannot describe their location.

Prior to passage of this legislation, the funds would not have been available until they were raised after an FCC spectrum auction and deposited into the Treasury. Rather than having to wait until late 2008 or 2009, NTIA, in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the other half of a national 9-1-1 Implementation and Coordination Office (ICO), will have the authority to make the funds immediately available to 9-1-1 centers following a rulemaking to determine the criteria for eligibility.

“NENA is grateful for the leadership of Senators Clinton and Stevens for introducing the 911 Modernization Act and pushing to include the language in the 9/11 Commission legislation. Along with the establishment of a dedicated interoperability grant program, there is no question that updating and improving the technological capabilities of 9-1-1 Centers will improve our nation’s homeland security. Lives will be saved because of the efforts of the Senate E9-1-1 Caucus Co-Chairs and the effect of this legislation,” said NENA President Jason Barbour, ENP.

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About the National Emergency Number Association

NENA is *The Voice of 9-1-1*[™]. Now celebrating its 26th year, NENA was established to promote implementation and awareness of 9-1-1 as North America's universal emergency number. NENA has grown to become the leading professional non-profit organization dedicated solely to 9-1-1 emergency communications issues. NENA serves its nearly 7,000 members in 48 chapters across the U.S., Canada and Mexico through policy advocacy, establishment of technical and operational standards, certification programs and a broad spectrum of educational offerings. Find out more at www.nena.org.